

Children and Families Committee to Plan for Health Care, DD Studies

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee will meet June 29 in Helena to plan for the studies and other activities it will undertake over the next 15 months.

The Legislative Council assigned three studies to the committee earlier this month: the House Joint Resolution 20 study of health care price transparency, the HJR 17 study of prescription drug pricing, and the HJR 24 study of services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Committee members also are responsible for monitoring the activities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. And state law requires the committee to monitor the state's medical marijuana program. That program will change significantly in the future. Voters approved an initiative allowing for dispensaries and testing labs last fall, and the Legislature created a tax on gross sales earlier this year.

The committee also will elect officers at the meeting.

House members of the committee are Kathy Kelker, D-Billings; Jon Knokey, R-Bozeman; Dennis Lenz, R-Billings; and Gordon Pierson, D-Deer Lodge.

Senate members are Mary Caferro, D-Helena; Eric Moore, R-Miles City; Al Olszewski, R-Kalispell; and Diane Sands, D-Missoula.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Room 102 of the Capitol. For those who can't attend in person, the meeting will be streamed live at www.leg.mt.gov and will be broadcast on Television Montana (TVMT). Check local channel listings to find TVMT throughout Montana.

People interested in following the committee's activities may sign up for electronic notices about committee meetings and materials at http://leg.mt.gov/css/Lyris/email_logon.asp.

For more information about the meeting, visit the committee's website at www.leg.mt.gov/cfhhs or contact Sue O'Connell, committee staff, at 406-444-3597 or soconnell@mt.gov.